GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3840
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2002
LIFTING OF BAN ON INDIAN FLIGHTS
RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan`s President at the SAARC Ministerial Conference on Information & Communication held recently in Islamabac made an announcement that Pakistan would immediately lift the ban on Indian air flights over Pakistan, if India was prepared to reciprocate and also to demobilise deployment of armed forces from the borders on similar terms; and

(b) if so, the Government`s response thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. Pakistani leaders frequently indulge in empty public relation gimmicks in their futile bid to deflect international focus from Pakistan`s continued sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India.

Government are firmly resolved to take all necessary measures to resist terrorism until it is decisively crushed. Pakistan must end its sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India and take action on the list of 20 fugitives from law handed over to them on 31st December 2001.